

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: David J. Steele, et al.  
Filed: Herewith  
Entitled: EXPANDING WELLBORE JUNCTION  
Group Art Unit: 3672  
Examiner: H. Dang

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Entry of the following preliminary amendment in the above-identified application, prior to the examination thereof, is respectfully requested. The present application is a Rule 53(b) divisional of application no. 10/137,611.